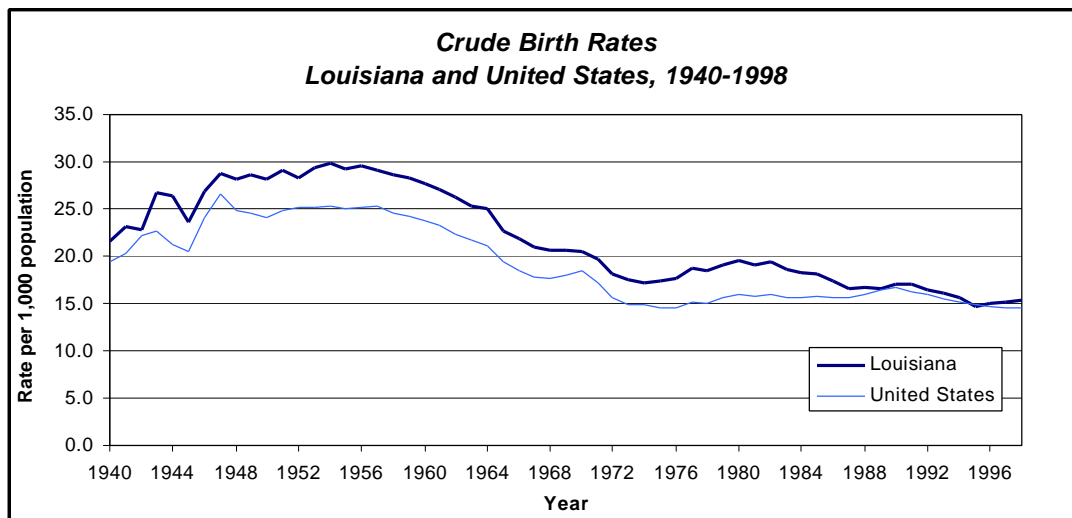




B. BIRTHS

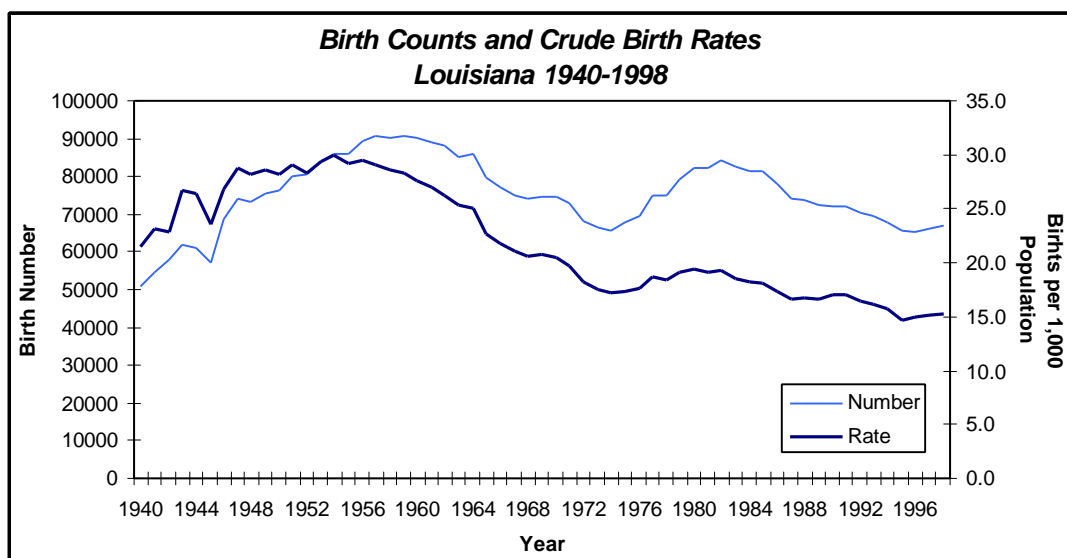
Live Birth Counts and Birth Rates

In 1998, there were 66,773 births to Louisiana residents. This marked a slight increase from the number of Louisiana births in 1997 (up 1.3%), while at the national level there was a slight decrease (down 1.6%) in the number of births between 1997 and 1998. Louisiana's 1998 crude birth rate was 15.3 live births per 1,000 population. Because the crude birth rate relates the number of live births to the total population in an area, without regard to the age or sex distribution of the population, it is useful as a measure of the contribution of births to the growth of the population of the area.¹ Louisiana's 1998 crude birth rate was similar to the 1997 Louisiana rate (15.2) and slightly higher than the 1998 national rate (14.6 per 1,000 population).



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

¹ Clarke SC and Ventura SJ. *Birth and Fertility for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52), 1994.



In the table below, crude birth rates are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states. (Note: Although Louisiana's final 1998 rate is available and is reported in this document, National Center for Health Statistics preliminary 1998 data for all states have been used in the table below to permit comparison with surrounding states.)

Louisiana continues to rank in the top third of the country in terms of birth rate. Louisiana's 1998 ranking of 11th is the same as its 1997 ranking. Among neighboring states, Louisiana's birth rate ranks in the middle.

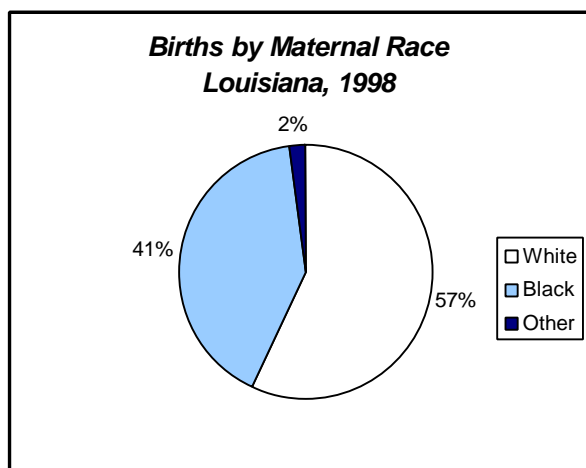
Crude Birth Rates		
Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1998		
State	Birth Rate*	National Ranking
Alabama	14.3	20
Arkansas	14.5	18
Louisiana	15.3	11
Mississippi	15.6	10
Texas	17.3	2
United States	14.6	-

*Rate per 1,000 population

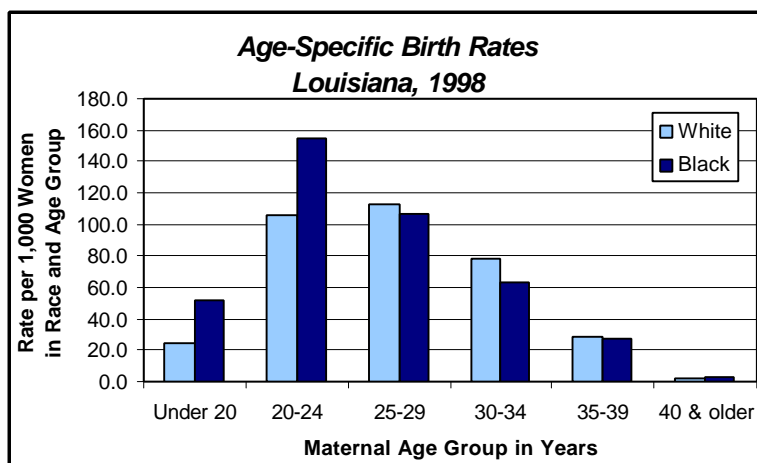
Source: National Center for Health Statistics

Although blacks represent only 32% of the population of Louisiana, 41% of the state's live births in 1998 were to black mothers. The birth rate for whites is 13.1 per 1,000 population while that of blacks is 19.5. Much of the disparity seems to occur in women under the age of 25.

Although birth rates for both racial groups peak in the twenties, the birth rate for blacks is much higher for mothers less than 25 years old than for whites of comparable age. After the age of 25, birth rates become more similar.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

There is also disparity among parishes in terms of birth rate. In 1998 East Carroll parish had the highest rate at 20.2 births per 1,000 population. This was more than twice the rate of St. Helena (8.2), the parish with the lowest birth rate.

[illegible]

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Live Births by Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1998													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate*	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk
Louisiana	67100	66773	15.3	All	305	11989	20415	16952	11307	4933	839	27	6
	38492	37910		White	57	4811	10339	11105	7794	3268	516	18	2
	27156	27424		Black	247	7013	9774	5389	3189	1510	291	8	3
	1452	1439		Other	1	165	302	458	324	155	32	1	1
Acadia	476	926	15.9	All	3	187	302	217	149	61	7	-	-
	301	681		White	-	108	217	181	119	51	5	-	-
	175	244		Black	3	79	85	36	29	10	2	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Allen	2	322	13.3	All	1	57	103	84	53	19	4	1	-
	1	244		White	1	42	81	63	39	14	3	1	-
	1	69		Black	-	13	20	18	13	4	1	-	-
	-	9		Other	-	2	2	3	1	1	-	-	-
Ascension	2	1218	17.0	All	2	168	311	391	258	77	11	-	-
	1	900		White	-	81	208	323	222	58	8	-	-
	1	307		Black	2	86	100	67	31	18	3	-	-
	-	11		Other	-	1	3	1	5	1	-	-	-
Assumption	1	305	13.3	All	1	62	88	74	52	25	3	-	-
	-	175		White	-	26	49	52	33	13	2	-	-
	1	129		Black	1	35	39	22	19	12	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Avoyelles	4	573	13.7	All	4	104	179	172	72	33	9	-	-
	1	354		White	2	55	106	118	47	19	7	-	-
	3	216		Black	2	47	73	53	25	14	2	-	-
	-	3		Other	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Beauregard	607	475	15.2	All	2	89	170	120	58	32	4	-	-
	481	408		White	1	75	143	109	50	26	4	-	-
	116	59		Black	1	14	23	11	7	3	-	-	-
	10	8		Other	-	-	4	-	1	3	-	-	-
Bienville	1	197	12.6	All	-	46	66	49	24	11	1	-	-
	-	100		White	-	13	42	28	11	6	-	-	-
	1	97		Black	-	33	24	21	13	5	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bossier	615	1376	14.6	All	7	232	392	375	255	93	22	-	-
	519	987		White	2	139	261	289	201	77	18	-	-
	79	359		Black	5	88	124	75	47	16	4	-	-
	17	30		Other	-	5	7	11	7	-	-	-	-
Caddo	5917	3614	15.0	All	18	709	1151	910	536	251	35	1	3
	3035	1601		White	1	195	430	494	307	151	22	1	-
	2805	1969		Black	17	510	709	402	220	96	12	-	3
	77	44		Other	-	4	12	14	9	4	1	-	-
Calcasieu	3298	2797	15.4	All	9	498	925	736	427	169	32	1	-
	2388	1943		White	1	280	618	569	335	121	18	1	-
	885	833		Black	8	215	304	157	90	45	14	-	-
	25	21		Other	-	3	3	10	2	3	-	-	-



Live Births by Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1998													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Rate*	Race	Residence								
					Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk
Caldwell	-	132	12.4	All	-	33	42	41	12	3	1	-	-
	-	102		White	-	21	31	36	12	2	-	-	-
	-	30		Black	-	12	11	5	-	1	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameron	-	110	12.2	All	-	29	31	21	17	10	2	-	-
	-	103		White	-	25	30	20	17	9	2	-	-
	-	7		Black	-	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catahoula	-	169	15.8	All	2	46	69	33	9	8	1	-	1
	-	112		White	-	24	46	27	8	6	-	-	1
	-	57		Black	2	22	23	6	1	2	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Claiborne	116	199	11.6	All	1	39	76	43	29	9	2	-	-
	33	78		White	-	14	27	22	12	2	1	-	-
	82	120		Black	1	25	49	21	16	7	1	-	-
	1	1		Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Concordia	257	298	14.0	All	5	77	112	64	30	8	2	-	-
	91	124		White	-	18	39	43	18	6	-	-	-
	165	173		Black	5	59	72	21	12	2	2	-	-
	1	1		Other	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
DeSoto	3	385	15.6	All	1	71	133	92	53	27	8	-	-
	-	187		White	-	28	59	55	23	17	5	-	-
	3	197		Black	1	43	74	36	30	10	3	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
E. Baton Rouge	9899	6058	15.3	All	25	934	1578	1627	1220	569	102	2	1
	5757	2829		White	1	223	498	901	786	363	55	1	1
	3960	3067		Black	24	702	1054	667	393	185	42	-	-
	182	162		Other	-	9	26	59	41	21	5	1	-
East Carroll	4	177	20.2	All	5	52	53	36	20	7	4	-	-
	-	40		White	-	5	13	11	9	-	2	-	-
	4	137		Black	5	47	40	25	11	7	2	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E. Feliciana	-	290	13.9	All	2	64	97	62	39	23	3	-	-
	-	133		White	-	20	43	29	25	14	2	-	-
	-	156		Black	2	44	53	33	14	9	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evangeline	818	585	17.0	All	4	115	197	149	84	32	4	-	-
	480	382		White	-	65	132	110	55	17	3	-	-
	326	203		Black	4	50	65	39	29	15	1	-	-
	12	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Franklin	11	323	14.7	All	4	64	117	84	41	10	3	-	-
	6	184		White	-	29	59	58	31	5	2	-	-
	5	139		Black	4	35	58	26	10	5	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Live Births by Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1998													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate*	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk
Grant	-	256	13.6	All	1	52	84	69	41	9	-	-	-
	-	217		White	1	42	68	61	38	7	-	-	-
	-	37		Black	-	9	16	7	3	2	-	-	-
	-	2		Other	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Iberia	1134	1265	17.3	All	6	290	381	294	201	82	11	-	-
	615	722		White	1	127	193	201	144	48	8	-	-
	493	515		Black	5	159	177	84	55	32	3	-	-
	26	28		Other	-	4	11	9	2	2	-	-	-
Iberville	471	509	16.6	All	2	98	152	133	77	39	7	1	-
	67	215		White	-	28	59	70	37	20	1	-	-
	403	293		Black	2	70	93	63	39	19	6	1	-
	1	1		Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Jackson	1	210	13.5	All	-	36	76	59	26	10	3	-	-
	1	147		White	-	24	50	45	20	7	1	-	-
	-	63		Black	-	12	26	14	6	3	2	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	7831	6469	14.3	All	18	905	1768	1693	1389	591	104	1	-
	5020	4075		White	4	410	958	1164	1017	448	74	-	-
	2457	2053		Black	14	462	748	419	287	98	24	1	-
	354	341		Other	-	33	62	110	85	45	6	-	-
Jeff. Davis	362	492	15.6	All	8	96	163	129	64	25	7	-	-
	294	372		White	6	59	118	108	58	18	5	-	-
	63	112		Black	2	35	44	17	5	7	2	-	-
	5	8		Other	-	2	1	4	1	-	-	-	-
Lafayette	5277	2964	16.1	All	6	406	760	818	626	299	48	1	-
	3617	1990		White	3	186	434	621	491	220	34	1	-
	1573	917		Black	3	218	313	182	121	68	12	-	-
	87	57		Other	-	2	13	15	14	11	2	-	-
Lafourche	1057	1305	14.8	All	7	238	384	352	223	90	11	-	-
	954	1005		White	5	141	286	301	192	69	11	-	-
	82	260		Black	2	87	90	39	23	19	-	-	-
	21	40		Other	-	10	8	12	8	2	-	-	-
LaSalle	45	199	14.1	All	-	39	73	49	31	7	-	-	-
	28	176		White	-	34	59	46	31	6	-	-	-
	17	23		Black	-	5	14	3	-	1	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	580	549	13.2	All	-	97	184	146	80	34	8	-	-
	274	252		White	-	27	66	91	43	20	5	-	-
	301	287		Black	-	70	117	54	34	9	3	-	-
	5	10		Other	-	-	1	1	3	5	-	-	-
Livingston	2	1386	15.9	All	3	208	448	429	208	78	12	-	-
	1	1280		White	2	177	405	412	201	72	11	-	-
	1	100		Black	1	31	40	15	6	6	1	-	-
	-	6		Other	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-



Live Births by Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1998													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate*	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk
Madison	8	216	16.5	All	3	58	73	49	25	7	1	-	-
	2	53		White	1	8	16	19	9	-	-	-	-
	6	163		Black	2	50	57	30	16	7	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	471	510	16.2	All	5	133	187	114	49	19	3	-	-
	275	209		White	-	45	76	53	27	7	1	-	-
	195	301		Black	5	88	111	61	22	12	2	-	-
	1	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natchitoches	612	604	16.0	All	5	115	214	155	71	39	5	-	-
	329	312		White	3	42	99	102	40	25	1	-	-
	280	288		Black	2	73	113	53	31	13	3	-	-
	3	4		Other	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Orleans	9056	7573	16.2	All	42	1558	2415	1635	1182	602	133	6	-
	2434	1302		White	-	68	195	345	401	233	56	4	-
	6362	6062		Black	42	1480	2177	1210	729	355	67	2	-
	260	209		Other	-	10	43	80	52	14	10	-	-
Ouachita	3830	2319	15.7	All	13	421	759	617	353	138	15	2	1
	2148	1265		White	1	158	367	404	239	85	10	1	-
	1653	1035		Black	12	262	389	206	112	48	5	1	-
	29	19		Other	-	1	3	7	2	5	-	-	1
Plaquemines	6	366	13.9	All	1	57	128	91	63	24	2	-	-
	1	244		White	-	31	88	59	46	19	1	-	-
	4	103		Black	1	24	36	25	12	4	1	-	-
	1	19		Other	-	2	4	7	5	1	-	-	-
Pointe Coupee	4	331	14.2	All	3	69	105	76	50	24	3	1	-
	-	176		White	2	26	49	51	34	12	1	1	-
	4	155		Black	1	43	56	25	16	12	2	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rapides	3176	1928	15.2	All	10	425	606	456	285	124	21	1	-
	2055	1111		White	1	167	351	293	203	81	14	1	-
	1091	795		Black	9	256	252	154	78	39	7	-	-
	30	22		Other	-	2	3	9	4	4	-	-	-
Red River	-	123	12.5	All	1	24	54	22	10	12	-	-	-
	-	65		White	1	11	29	11	5	8	-	-	-
	-	58		Black	-	13	25	11	5	4	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richland	1	368	17.6	All	2	89	151	78	32	12	4	-	-
	1	186		White	-	35	75	46	19	10	1	-	-
	-	179		Black	2	54	76	31	11	2	3	-	-
	-	3		Other	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Sabine	6	302	12.7	All	2	68	107	68	40	14	2	1	-
	1	215		White	-	49	72	50	31	11	1	1	-
	5	72		Black	2	18	27	17	6	2	-	-	-
	-	15		Other	-	1	8	1	3	1	1	-	-



Live Births by Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1998													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate*	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk
St. Bernard	6	859	12.8	All	1	118	246	248	169	66	11	-	-
	3	753		White	1	91	217	214	160	59	11	-	-
	3	83		Black	-	24	25	26	3	5	-	-	-
	-	23		Other	-	3	4	8	6	2	-	-	-
St. Charles	3	713	14.8	All	2	97	180	191	158	79	6	-	-
	1	487		White	-	44	97	151	130	60	5	-	-
	2	215		Black	2	53	82	35	26	16	1	-	-
	-	11		Other	-	-	1	5	2	3	-	-	-
St. Helena	-	79	8.2	All	-	13	27	17	18	3	1	-	-
	-	37		White	-	4	19	4	9	1	-	-	-
	-	42		Black	-	9	8	13	9	2	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. James	1	313	14.7	All	3	57	84	78	60	25	4	2	-
	1	118		White	1	5	18	52	29	13	-	-	-
	-	195		Black	2	52	66	26	31	12	4	2	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. John	428	708	16.8	All	6	131	191	196	116	63	5	-	-
	248	353		White	-	43	84	117	67	39	3	-	-
	179	349		Black	6	88	106	79	46	23	1	-	-
	1	6		Other	-	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-
St. Landry	1261	1457	17.7	All	10	314	454	346	219	96	17	1	-
	717	733		White	2	116	219	213	130	45	7	1	-
	540	720		Black	8	198	233	132	88	51	10	-	-
	4	4		Other	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
St. Martin	3	752	15.9	All	1	153	230	183	122	51	12	-	-
	2	425		White	-	63	133	119	77	28	5	-	-
	1	317		Black	1	90	96	58	44	22	6	-	-
	-	10		Other	-	-	1	6	1	1	1	-	-
St. Mary	643	929	16.2	All	8	184	325	234	118	47	12	1	-
	373	558		White	1	82	193	162	81	32	6	1	-
	241	332		Black	6	94	120	58	34	15	5	-	-
	29	39		Other	1	8	12	14	3	-	1	-	-
St. Tammany	3429	2606	14.2	All	8	285	576	717	654	314	50	2	-
	2732	2201		White	2	182	450	629	608	282	46	2	-
	661	370		Black	6	101	124	78	32	26	3	-	-
	36	35		Other	-	2	2	10	14	6	1	-	-
Tangipahoa	1548	1616	16.9	All	12	332	593	344	234	92	9	-	-
	897	947		White	3	134	320	245	176	62	7	-	-
	641	654		Black	9	197	272	94	52	28	2	-	-
	10	15		Other	-	1	1	5	6	2	-	-	-
Tensas	-	94	15.1	All	-	27	36	18	10	3	-	-	-
	-	26		White	-	5	6	9	5	1	-	-	-
	-	68		Black	-	22	30	9	5	2	-	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Live Births by Race, Age of Mother, Parish of Occurrence, and Parish of Residence Louisiana, 1998													
Parish	Total by Occurrence	Total by Residence	Residence										
			Rate*	Race	Age in Years								
					Less than 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk
Terrebonne	2327	1693	16.3	All	1	350	532	398	279	117	16	-	-
	1433	1179		White	1	220	349	302	209	87	11	-	-
	718	367		Black	-	80	146	68	49	20	4	-	-
	176	147		Other	-	50	37	28	21	10	1	-	-
Union	1	320	14.5	All	-	52	122	86	39	14	7	-	-
	-	209		White	-	31	76	58	26	12	6	-	-
	1	111		Black	-	21	46	28	13	2	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermilion	196	824	16.1	All	2	165	264	201	131	50	10	1	-
	101	631		White	1	112	196	174	102	39	7	-	-
	87	173		Black	1	53	66	20	22	8	2	1	-
	8	20		Other	-	-	2	7	7	3	1	-	-
Vernon	516	945	18.2	All	1	136	376	256	130	41	5	-	-
	354	715		White	-	94	287	197	103	32	2	-	-
	123	186		Black	1	37	74	45	20	6	3	-	-
	39	44		Other	-	5	15	14	7	3	-	-	-
Washington	52	681	15.4	All	5	147	264	162	73	27	3	-	-
	23	414		White	3	70	158	120	49	14	-	-	-
	29	266		Black	2	77	106	42	23	13	3	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Webster	721	591	13.9	All	7	117	200	138	80	44	5	-	-
	393	349		White	2	53	126	86	50	30	2	-	-
	327	241		Black	5	64	74	51	30	14	3	-	-
	1	1		Other	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
W. Baton Rouge	-	337	16.3	All	1	52	93	101	67	21	1	1	-
	-	198		White	-	26	47	62	49	13	-	1	-
	-	138		Black	1	26	46	39	17	8	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
West Carroll	2	159	13.0	All	2	36	48	48	19	5	1	-	-
	2	118		White	-	28	33	42	13	2	-	-	-
	-	40		Black	2	8	14	6	6	3	1	-	-
	-	1		Other	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. Feliciana	-	114	8.5	All	-	20	29	31	23	8	3	-	-
	-	69		White	-	8	16	23	15	5	2	-	-
	-	45		Black	-	12	13	8	8	3	1	-	-
	-	-		Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Winn	2	210	11.7	All	1	45	81	47	24	11	1	-	-
	1	134		White	-	19	50	35	20	9	1	-	-
	1	73		Black	1	25	29	12	4	2	-	-	-
	-	3		Other	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Out of State	810	1137		All	2	113	300	358	231	102	24	4	3
	379	961		White	-	86	261	297	198	91	21	4	3
	425	157		Black	2	26	38	52	26	10	3	-	-
	6	19		Other	-	1	1	9	7	1	-	-	-

*Rate per 1,000 population

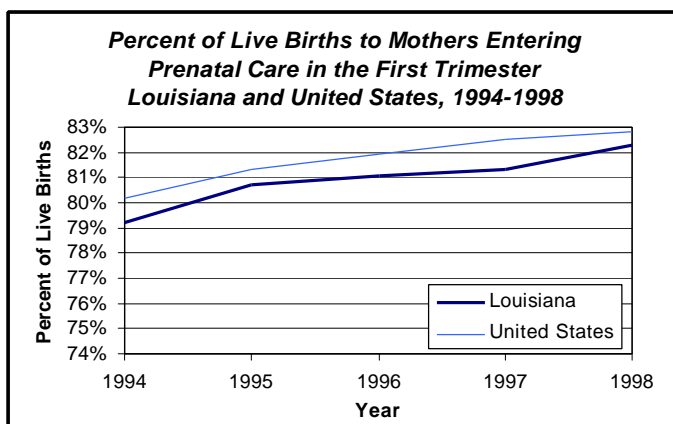
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is recognized as an important means of providing medical, nutritional, and educational interventions to reduce the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes and to identify women at high risk for these outcomes. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent on prenatal care, up to \$3.38 can be saved in direct medical costs.² Beyond the positive effect on birth outcomes, prenatal care is a vital part of women's health care, as many women (particularly adolescents, minorities, and women of low socio-economic status) first enter the health care system during pregnancy.³

Prenatal care is most effective when it begins during the early stages of pregnancy. At the national level, the percentage of live births to mothers entering prenatal care in the first trimester has been steadily increasing. Louisiana, while consistently below the national percentage, has shown similar improvement.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

In the following table, percentages of live births to mothers utilizing prenatal care are furnished to allow comparison of Louisiana with neighboring states. (As previously noted, preliminary NCHS 1998 numbers are used for cross-state comparisons.) In 1998, 82.2% of Louisiana residents who gave birth entered prenatal care in the first trimester, as compared with 82.8% of mothers in the United States. Louisiana ranked 33rd in the nation and second among neighboring states.

Percent of Live Births to Mothers Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1998		
State	Percent of Mothers	National Ranking
Alabama	82.4	30
Arkansas	77.8	47
Louisiana	82.2	33
Mississippi	80.6	41
Texas	79.3	44
United States	82.8	-

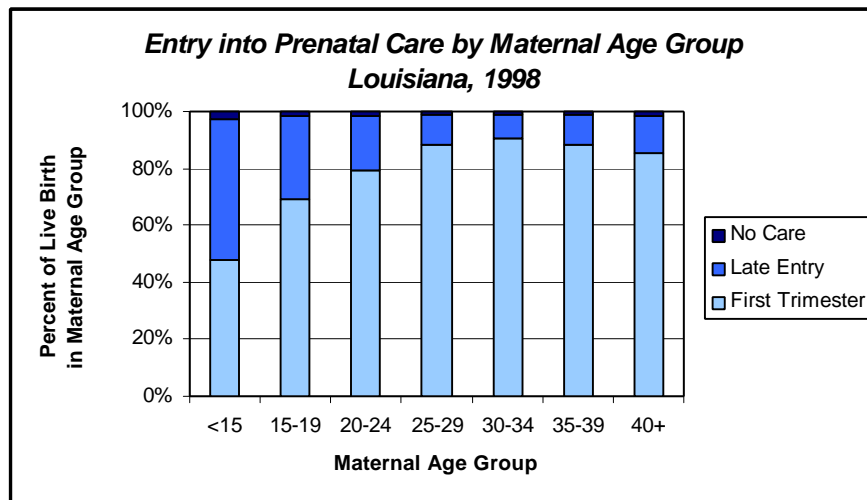
Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

² Institute of Medicine. (1994). "Prenatal Care and Low Birthweight: Effects on Health Care Expenditures." In: *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (pp. 212-37) Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

³ Fiscella, K. (1995). "Does Prenatal Care Improve Birth Outcomes? A Critical Review." *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 85, 468-79.

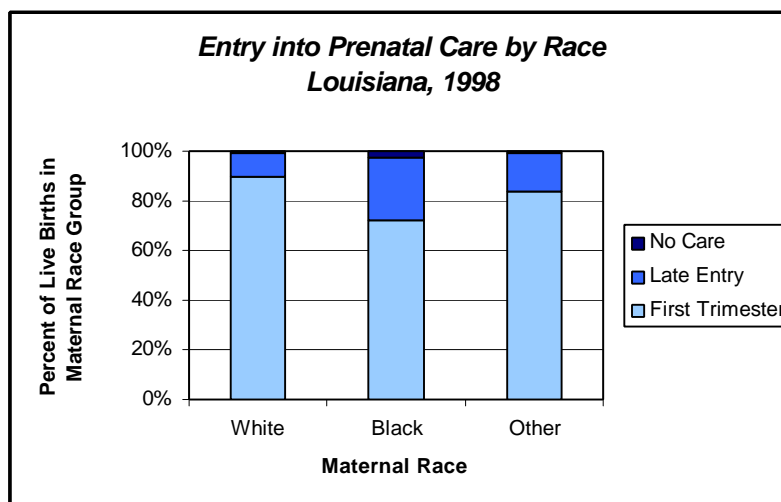


Less than half (47.5%) of mothers under the age of 15 started prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, and 3.0% of this age group never received any prenatal care. However, entry into care improved with age before leveling off in the mid-thirties.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

Black women entered into prenatal care in a timely manner less frequently than whites and other races. Only 72.1% of black mothers had their first prenatal visit in the first trimester, compared with 89.5% of white mothers. Also, 2.6% of black mothers received no prenatal care, as compared with 0.6% of white mothers.



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In Louisiana, adequacy of prenatal care is measured by a modified Kessner index, which defines prenatal care as adequate if the first prenatal visit occurred in the first trimester of pregnancy and if the total number of visits was appropriate to the gestational age of the baby at birth. It should be noted, however, that these measures assess neither the quality nor the content of prenatal care and, therefore, are most likely overestimates of the adequacy of care. Of the 65,817 Louisiana residents who gave birth in 1998, 76.9% received adequate care.



Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1993-1998						
Parish	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Louisiana	70.1	71.8	73.5	74.8	75.4	76.9
Acadia	65.7	52.6	50.3	57.7	59.6	69.7
Allen	63.0	64.7	63.3	70.4	67.2	74.9
Ascension	76.3	78.3	79.5	79.1	83.0	82.7
Assumption	75.7	75.2	75.5	78.2	82.7	80.9
Avoyelles	57.1	61.1	64.4	70.0	69.7	69.7
Beauregard	58.5	60.7	60.7	63.5	70.8	70.3
Bienville	57.0	58.1	61.5	57.2	64.5	69.0
Bossier	77.2	77.2	79.5	77.9	76.3	80.8
Caddo	69.1	70.4	71.0	69.5	68.0	72.9
Calcasieu	76.3	78.3	80.0	79.6	81.6	81.6
Caldwell	71.6	75.4	80.7	79.4	79.0	78.8
Cameron	79.8	81.5	88.6	84.3	84.0	83.3
Catahoula	73.5	71.0	74.3	65.7	73.3	68.3
Claiborne	53.4	58.1	67.4	63.4	61.0	58.0
Concordia	67.1	65.9	72.7	73.7	65.7	64.1
DeSoto	68.1	69.2	68.8	66.8	68.1	76.0
East Baton Rouge	72.0	74.5	78.3	75.7	75.4	75.3
East Carroll	57.2	56.1	55.9	69.6	60.3	58.3
East Feliciana	63.7	65.8	67.7	60.1	70.8	72.6
Evangeline	65.1	66.2	62.7	69.7	69.0	66.1
Franklin	66.2	71.7	74.6	65.4	70.3	66.5
Grant	63.0	72.4	77.0	79.8	79.5	80.0
Iberia	64.6	66.5	66.9	61.2	61.1	57.5
Iberville	67.9	73.0	75.4	74.4	78.1	73.2
Jackson	47.2	47.9	57.8	59.1	57.8	58.3
Jefferson	77.9	79.4	81.6	61.1	83.6	82.2
Jefferson Davis	59.5	58.6	62.6	83.3	62.6	60.1
Lafayette	76.2	79.0	72.5	74.1	80.3	85.1
Lafourche	74.6	78.0	83.4	79.8	78.2	84.5
LaSalle	66.8	68.7	65.7	72.9	71.1	80.1
Lincoln	43.9	36.7	48.6	49.9	49.2	48.3
Livingston	83.3	79.4	79.7	83.9	85.2	84.5
Madison	52.1	57.1	56.8	64.4	55.5	59.4
Morehouse	53.2	55.6	50.0	50.6	49.8	49.2
Natchitoches	61.4	60.7	73.7	72.0	68.9	75.5
Orleans	65.0	66.7	65.8	71.4	74.7	76.1
Ouachita	66.3	74.2	78.3	78.0	77.1	79.8
Plaquemines	75.4	71.7	74.0	79.0	74.8	77.9
Pointe Coupee	68.2	69.1	76.5	76.5	75.9	75.5
Rapides	62.7	68.0	70.3	74.7	74.5	75.5
Red River	71.2	69.0	74.5	58.0	64.7	71.3
Richland	70.3	63.9	68.5	75.7	72.8	78.8
Sabine	66.2	64.4	72.9	69.8	73.1	76.8
St. Bernard	82.0	85.5	86.7	88.5	89.9	88.4
St. Charles	78.0	80.7	80.0	84.9	82.6	83.6
St. Helena	81.7	73.8	68.4	71.6	86.9	88.6
St. James	63.0	65.2	65.5	68.2	63.3	68.9
St. John	64.9	64.7	62.9	72.1	65.1	64.6



Percent of Mothers Receiving Adequate* Prenatal Care by Parish Louisiana, 1993-1998						
Parish	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
St. Landry	54.5	57.4	62.0	66.1	63.6	66.0
St. Martin	65.9	70.6	70.2	70.8	73.2	77.6
St. Mary	75.1	77.3	76.9	79.0	75.7	79.0
St. Tammany	84.5	85.8	87.3	86.0	85.8	85.7
Tangipahoa	79.1	72.8	78.8	79.8	87.5	90.9
Tensas	71.1	72.2	67.6	60.0	60.7	50.5
Terrebonne	70.2	71.0	75.9	76.1	73.4	79.8
Union	56.3	59.7	66.1	63.1	66.7	66.2
Vermilion	71.6	76.7	77.1	81.0	84.0	83.7
Vernon	68.6	75.7	76.8	76.9	77.7	77.1
Washington	57.4	62.0	65.6	78.4	74.1	76.3
Webster	72.5	69.7	72.6	76.9	68.9	69.2
West Baton Rouge	71.7	71.0	79.3	74.9	78.6	82.6
West Carroll	59.9	64.9	64.4	67.9	58.6	57.9
West Feliciana	68.1	65.1	75.8	63.3	71.3	84.8
Winn	47.5	49.1	51.4	64.0	57.4	63.6

*According to modified Kessner index

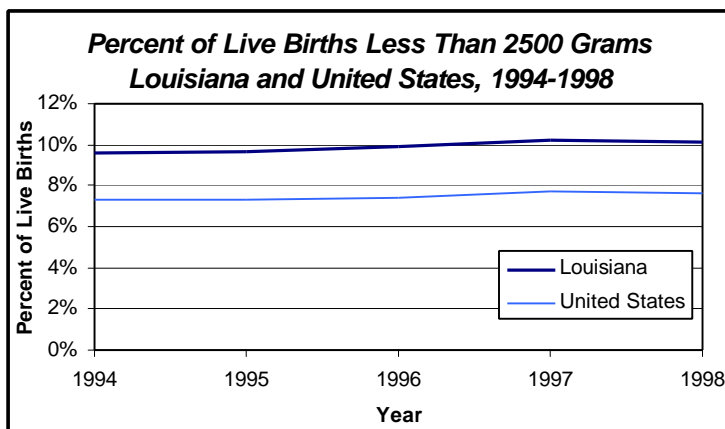
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Low Birthweight

A low birthweight infant is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth. Low birthweight is a major cause of infant mortality, with more than three-quarters of infant deaths caused by babies being born too small or too early.⁴ Low birthweight contributes significantly to later childhood handicap as well. Low birthweight infants are more likely to have brain damage, lung and liver disease, subnormal growth, developmental problems, and other adverse health conditions. The effects of low birthweight follow infants throughout life, as they are more likely to have mild learning disorders, attention disorders, and developmental impairments.⁵ A higher proportion of low birthweight infants also go on to be enrolled in special education classes than their normal birthweight counterparts.⁶

In 1998, 6,768 of the infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 2500 grams (5lbs, 8oz). This represents 10.1% of the live births that year, as compared with 7.6% of the babies born in the United States who were low birthweight. With the exception of 1998, both Louisiana and the United States have seen an increase in the percentage of infants with low birthweight in recent years.



Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

In the following table, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of low birthweight infants. (As previously noted, preliminary NCHS 1998 percentages are used for cross-state comparisons.) In 1998, Louisiana had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies in the nation.

⁴ Paneth NS. (1995) "The Problem of Low Birth Weight." In *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* (19-34).

⁵ Institute of Medicine. (1985). "The Significance of Low Birthweight." In *Preventing Low Birthweight*. (21-45). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

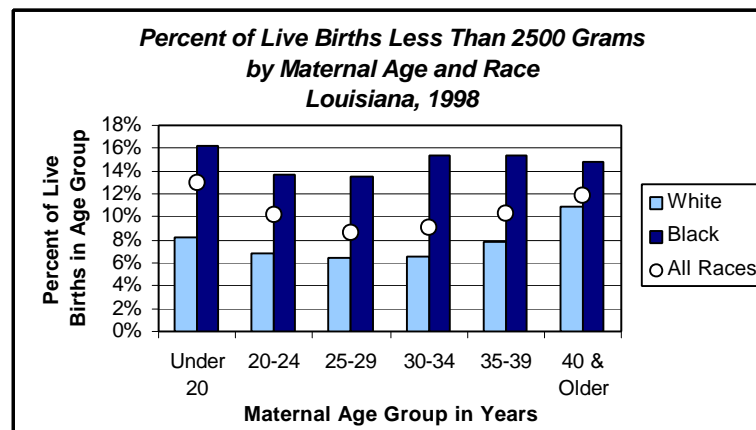
⁶ Hack M, Klein NK, Taylor HG. "Long-Term Developmental Outcomes of Low Birth Weight Infants." *The Future of Children, Low Birth Weight* 1995;5:19-34.



Percent of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1998		
State	Percent of Live Births	National Ranking
Alabama	9.3	4
Arkansas	8.9	6
Louisiana	10.1	1
Mississippi	10.1	1
Texas	7.4	30
United States	7.6	-

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

Blacks gave birth to infants of low birthweight more than twice as frequently as white women did, at 14.6% compared with 7.0% of live births. This discrepancy held true for all age groups. Examination of births by age groups found mothers under 20 had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (12.9% of live births).

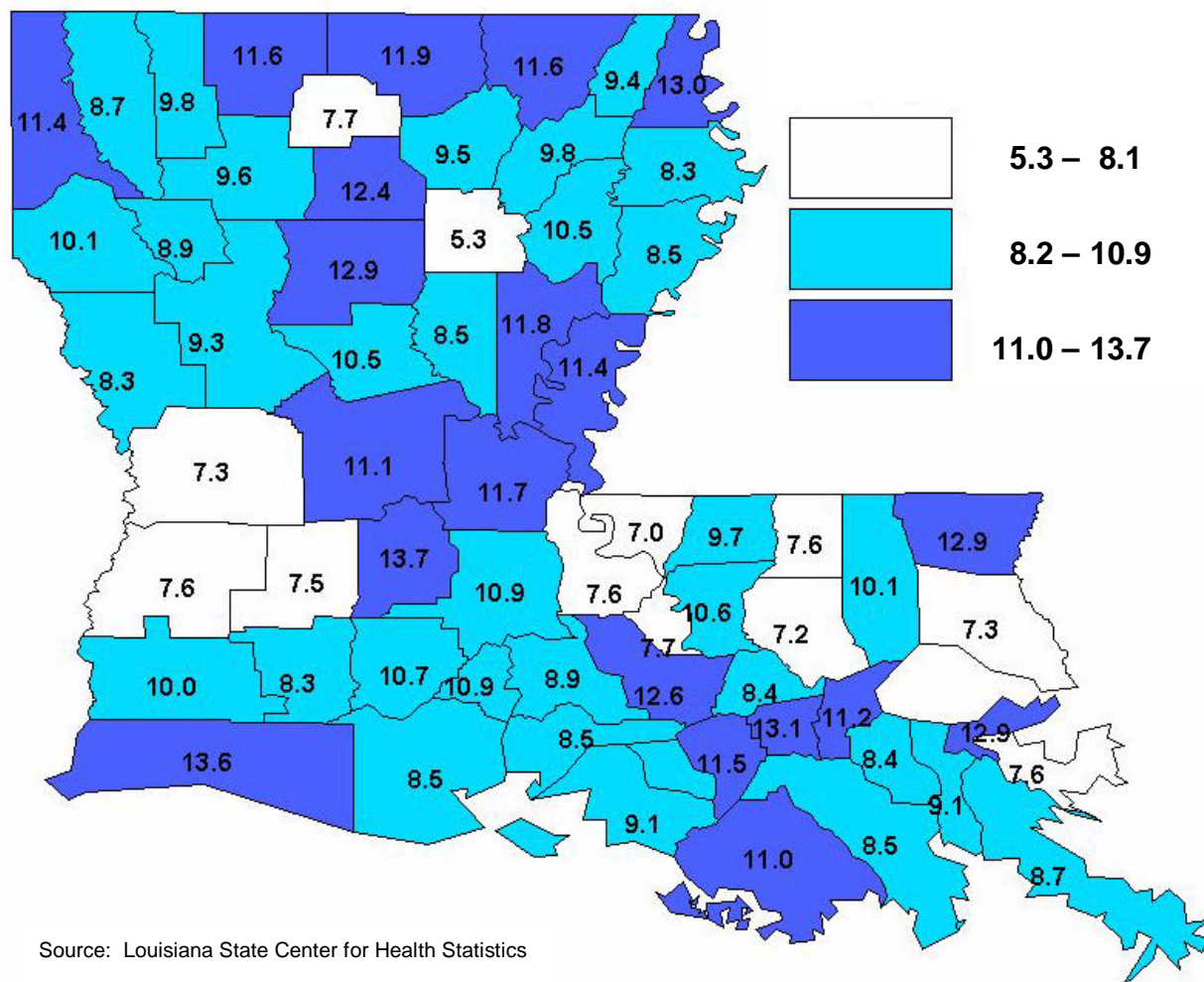


Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

In 1998 Evangeline parish had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies at 13.7% of live births, and Caldwell parish had the lowest at 5.3% of live births. The map on the following page shows the percent of live births that are low birthweight babies in each parish.



***Percent Low Birthweight
(<5lbs. 8oz.)
Louisiana, 1998***





Infants weighing less than 1500 grams (3lbs, 5oz) at birth are considered to be very low birthweight and are at much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability. The risk of early death for very low birthweight infants is about 65 times that of infants who weigh at least 1500 grams.⁷ In 1998, 2.1% of infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 1500 grams, as compared with 1.5% of infants born to United States residents. As with infants weighing less than 2500 grams, there were demographic differences in the mothers giving birth to very low birthweight infants. Black mothers gave birth to very low birthweight infants three times as frequently as white mothers did, at 3.5% compared with 1.2% of live births. Infants born to young mothers of all races were also more frequently very lowbirth weight. Of all infants born to mothers under the age of 20, 2.5% were very low birthweight.

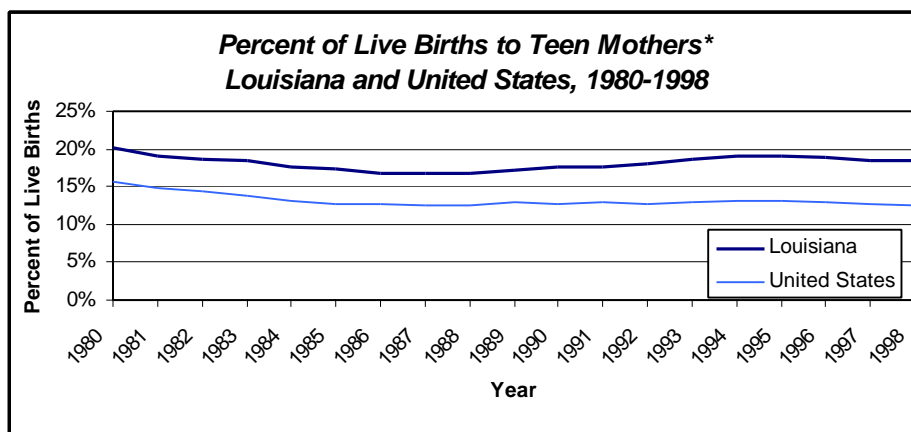
⁷ Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. "Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1995." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; vol 45 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.



Teen Births

Despite an overall decrease in teen birth rates over the last two decades, teenage pregnancy continues to be a problem for the nation. Teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to give birth to low birthweight infants.⁸ These infants are also more likely to be hospitalized and go on to have childhood health problems. National statistics report that most births to teens (76%) occur outside marriage⁹ and 25% of teenage mothers go on to have children within the next two years.¹⁰ These factors, combined with the fact that teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school, contribute to the high proportion of women living in poverty who first gave birth during adolescence. In 1993, of the 3.8 million mothers aged 15-44 who received welfare or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), 55% first became mothers as teenagers.¹¹ In fiscal year 1995, Louisiana spent over \$875 million on programs that support families begun by teens (in the form of AFDC, Food Stamps, WIC, and Medicaid). In contrast, Louisiana spent only \$5.7 million on programs designed to prevent teenage pregnancy.¹²

In 1998, there were 12,294 live births to Louisiana residents under the age of 20. This number comprised 18.4% of the total live births to Louisiana residents in 1998, as compared with 12.5% at the national level.



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Sources: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

⁸ Lewis CT, Mathews TJ, Heuser RL. *Prenatal Care in the United States, 1980-94*. National Center for Health Statistics. *Vital Health Stat* 21(54). 1996.

⁹ Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Mathews TJ, Clarke SC. "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1994." *Monthly Vital Statistics Report*; vol 44 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1996.

¹⁰ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994.

¹¹ The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Issues in Brief*. February 1995.

¹² Kreutzer, Tracy A. *Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South*. Volume II. Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality. Washington, DC. 1997.



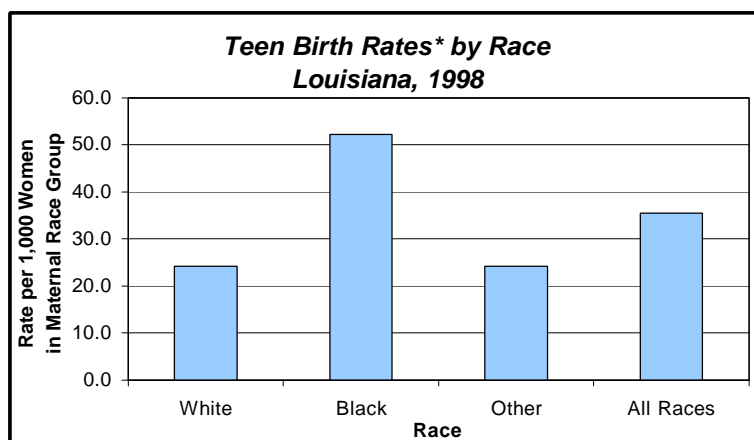
In the table below, percentages are furnished to provide an idea of Louisiana's standing among the neighboring states in terms of births to teenagers. (As noted previously, preliminary NCHS 1998 numbers are used to facilitate cross-state comparisons.) Louisiana has consistently ranked near the top of the states in terms of percentage of live births to teens, and 1998 was no exception. Louisiana had the third highest percentage of live births to teens in the nation, one of the four southern states at the top of the list.

Percent of Live Births to Teens* Louisiana, Neighboring States, and United States, 1998		
State	Percent	National Ranking
Alabama	17.1	5
Arkansas	18.6	2
Louisiana	18.4	3
Mississippi	20.0	1
Texas	16.1	8
United States	12.5	-

*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

Source: National Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

To make comparisons of births among teens in different race groups meaningful, teen birth rates have been calculated by relating the number of teen births in each race group to the total number of teen women in the same race group. This method of calculating teen birth rates controls for differences in the proportion of women in the race groups, and is the method used by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS).¹³ In Louisiana, the birth rate for black teenagers in 1998 was more than twice that of white teenagers, at 52.4 compared with 24.1 births per 1,000 women in the respective age and race groups.



*Teen mothers are less than 20 years old at the time of birth

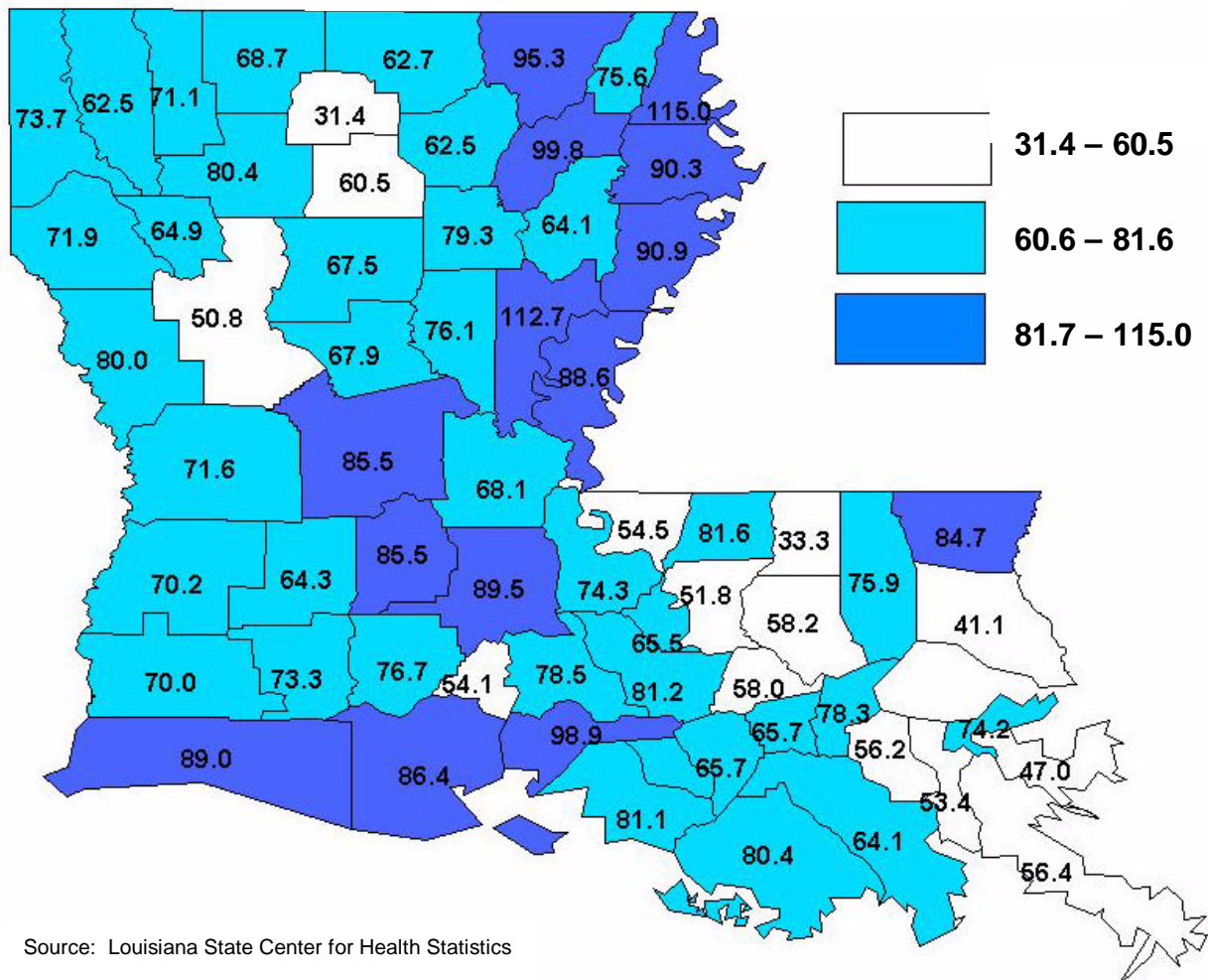
Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics (preliminary 1998 data)

There is considerable variation in teenage birth rates by parish. In 1998 East Carroll parish had the highest rate at 115.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. This is over three times the rate of Lincoln, the parish with the lowest rate at 31.4 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. The following map shows teenage birth rates in Louisiana by parish.

¹³ Clarke SC and Ventura SL. *Birth and Fertility Rate for States: United States, 1990*. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(52). 1994.



***Teen Birth Rate
Per 1,000 Women Ages 15-19
Louisiana, 1998***



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Percent of Total Live Births to Teenagers 15-19 Years of Age Louisiana, 1994-1998															
Parish	15-17 Years					18-19 Years					15-19 Years*				
	94	95	96	97	98	94	95	96	97	98	94	95	96	97	98
Louisiana	8	7	7	7	6	11	11	11	11	11	19	19	18	18	18
Acadia	8	8	7	9	7	13	12	13	13	13	21	21	20	22	20
Allen	9	8	6	5	4	14	13	11	15	14	23	21	17	21	18
Ascension	6	5	6	5	5	8	10	9	9	9	15	15	15	13	14
Assumption	10	6	6	9	7	11	12	14	14	14	21	18	20	23	20
Avoyelles	9	7	7	10	8	13	13	11	13	11	22	20	19	22	18
Beauregard	7	4	5	9	5	11	13	12	12	14	19	17	18	20	19
Bienville	7	5	10	10	12	10	14	10	14	12	17	19	21	24	23
Bossier	7	5	6	6	5	10	10	10	11	12	16	16	16	17	17
Caddo	8	8	8	7	6	11	12	11	12	13	20	19	18	19	20
Calcasieu	7	7	6	7	6	11	12	13	12	12	18	19	19	19	18
Caldwell	4	11	10	6	11	11	11	12	16	14	16	22	22	20	25
Cameron	6	5	9	12	11	9	9	21	10	15	14	14	30	22	26
Catahoula	9	11	6	8	9	13	14	20	18	18	22	25	26	26	27
Claiborne	10	10	13	9	10	14	8	9	11	10	24	19	22	20	20
Concordia	16	14	10	11	14	16	18	20	16	12	33	32	30	26	26
DeSoto	7	9	8	7	7	12	14	13	14	12	19	24	21	20	18
E. Baton Rouge	6	6	6	6	6	9	9	10	9	10	15	14	16	14	15
E. Carroll	12	14	7	17	12	16	13	8	6	17	28	27	16	22	29
E. Feliciana	9	5	9	8	5	11	11	24	16	17	19	16	33	24	22
Evangeline	10	8	10	11	7	9	14	14	12	13	19	23	24	22	20
Franklin	11	9	8	7	7	15	14	16	16	13	25	23	24	22	20
Grant	6	6	9	5	8	14	16	14	15	13	20	22	23	20	20
Iberia	8	9	10	8	9	11	15	11	12	14	19	24	21	20	23
Iberville	6	7	8	7	6	10	11	13	11	13	16	18	21	16	19
Jackson	10	7	8	7	5	14	14	12	9	12	25	22	20	15	17
Jefferson	6	5	7	6	5	9	10	12	9	9	15	15	20	15	14
Jefferson Davis	8	8	6	9	7	12	13	9	12	13	20	21	15	21	20
Lafayette	5	5	5	5	5	8	10	9	9	9	13	15	15	14	14
Lafourche	6	8	6	7	6	10	10	11	11	12	15	18	17	17	18
LaSalle	8	9	7	8	8	13	10	12	10	12	20	19	19	18	20
Lincoln	8	8	7	7	8	10	9	7	13	10	18	17	14	19	18
Livingston	5	6	5	6	6	11	11	11	10	9	16	18	16	17	15
Madison	12	14	10	11	13	14	13	17	13	13	27	27	27	21	27
Morehouse	14	15	10	13	10	16	15	13	15	14	30	30	24	27	26
Natchitoches	10	9	8	9	6	14	15	14	12	13	23	24	21	21	19
Orleans	10	10	9	8	8	13	12	12	12	12	23	22	20	20	21
Ouachita	10	7	8	7	6	13	12	13	11	12	23	19	21	17	18
Plaquemines	10	6	10	8	5	9	11	12	12	11	19	17	21	19	16
Pointe Coupee	7	7	10	8	8	13	12	10	14	13	20	19	19	21	21
Rapides	8	7	7	9	8	12	14	14	12	14	20	21	21	21	22
Red River	10	6	9	11	7	17	13	15	9	13	27	19	24	18	20
Richland	13	14	10	12	11	16	15	14	12	14	29	29	23	23	24
Sabine	9	8	9	6	6	13	16	13	13	16	23	24	22	19	23
St. Bernard	5	6	6	4	5	10	10	11	10	8	15	15	17	14	14
St. Charles	5	7	4	6	5	9	6	9	10	9	14	13	13	15	14
St. Helena	8	8	10	7	10	13	15	17	14	6	20	23	27	20	16
St. James	6	8	7	5	6	10	9	8	9	12	16	18	15	14	18
St. John	7	6	6	7	6	9	11	12	12	12	16	17	18	18	19
St. Landry	9	7	8	9	8	12	12	13	12	14	21	19	22	21	22
St. Martin	8	6	8	8	8	12	12	12	11	13	20	18	20	19	20
St. Mary	8	9	9	8	7	13	14	14	14	13	21	23	23	22	20
St. Tammany	5	5	5	5	3	8	8	6	8	8	12	13	11	12	11
Tangipahoa	9	8	9	10	7	14	14	14	14	13	24	22	23	24	21
Tensas	13	11	12	19	5	16	19	17	14	23	28	31	30	32	29
Terrebonne	7	7	8	9	8	11	11	11	13	13	18	18	20	21	21
Union	13	8	8	10	6	10	13	15	9	10	23	22	22	19	16
Vermilion	6	7	5	6	8	12	12	12	11	13	18	19	18	16	20
Vernon	4	4	4	4	4	11	12	12	13	10	15	16	16	17	14
Washington	12	11	7	9	9	12	19	11	17	13	24	30	18	25	22
Webster	10	8	6	10	6	13	14	11	14	14	23	22	17	23	20
W. Baton Rouge	7	4	10	8	4	7	12	15	12	11	13	16	25	19	15
W. Carroll	7	7	9	5	11	10	13	11	15	11	16	21	20	20	23
W. Feliciana	8	10	7	8	6	10	5	17	9	11	17	15	23	17	18
Winn	10	12	7	10	9	11	13	13	16	13	21	25	19	26	21

*May not equal sum of "15-17 Years" and "18-19 Years" due to rounding

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics



Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1998				
Parish	Total Births	Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*	Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)	% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years
Louisiana	66,773	76.9	10.1	18.4
White	37,910	85.5	7.0	12.8
Black	27,424	65.1	14.6	26.5
Other	1,439	78.6	8.1	11.5
Acadia	926	69.7	10.7	20.5
White	681	77.7	8.4	15.9
Black	244	46.9	17.2	33.6
Other	1	100.0	-	-
Allen	322	74.9	7.5	18.0
White	244	77.6	6.6	17.6
Black	69	66.7	11.6	18.8
Other	9	66.7	-	22.2
Ascension	1,218	82.7	8.4	14.0
White	900	88.2	7.8	9.0
Black	307	66.6	10.1	28.7
Other	11	90.9	9.1	9.1
Assumption	305	80.9	11.5	20.7
White	175	85.9	8.0	14.9
Black	129	74.0	16.3	27.9
Other	1	100.0	-	100.0
Avoyelles	573	69.7	11.7	18.8
White	354	79.3	8.2	16.1
Black	216	53.7	17.6	22.7
Other	3	100.0	-	66.7
Beauregard	475	70.3	7.6	19.2
White	408	72.0	6.6	18.6
Black	59	56.9	15.3	25.4
Other	8	75.0	-	-
Bienville	197	69.0	9.6	23.4
White	100	77.0	4.0	13.0
Black	97	60.8	15.5	34.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Bossier	1,376	80.8	8.7	17.4
White	987	88.2	6.6	14.3
Black	359	60.5	15.3	25.9
Other	30	83.3	-	16.7
Caddo	3,614	72.9	11.4	20.1
White	1,601	88.8	7.7	12.2
Black	1,969	59.9	14.5	26.8
Other	44	79.6	6.8	9.1
Calcasieu	2,797	81.6	10.0	18.1
White	1,943	86.6	7.8	14.5
Black	833	69.9	15.1	26.8
Other	21	81.0	14.3	14.3
Caldwell	132	78.8	5.3	25.0
White	102	83.3	2.9	20.6
Black	30	63.3	13.3	40.0
Other	-	-	-	-



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1998</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Cameron	110	83.3	13.6	26.4
White	103	85.2	14.6	24.3
Black	7	57.1	-	57.1
Other	-	-	-	-
Catahoula	169	68.3	11.8	28.4
White	112	77.3	11.6	21.4
Black	57	50.9	12.3	42.1
Other	-	-	-	-
Claiborne	199	58.0	11.6	20.1
White	78	78.7	9.0	17.9
Black	120	44.4	13.3	21.7
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
Concordia	298	64.1	11.4	27.5
White	124	82.1	6.5	14.5
Black	173	50.9	15.0	34.1
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
DeSoto	385	76.0	10.1	18.7
White	187	87.2	7.5	15.0
Black	197	65.1	12.7	22.3
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
E. Baton Rouge	6,058	75.3	10.6	15.4
White	2,829	89.3	5.6	7.9
Black	3067	62.3	15.5	23.7
Other	162	75.2	4.9	5.6
East Carroll	177	58.3	13.0	32.2
White	40	75.0	10.0	12.5
Black	137	53.3	13.9	38.0
Other	-	-	-	-
E. Feliciana	290	72.6	9.7	22.8
White	133	88.0	6.0	15.0
Black	156	59.1	12.8	29.5
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
Evangeline	585	66.1	13.7	20.3
White	382	73.0	9.7	17.0
Black	203	53.0	21.2	26.6
Other	-	-	-	-
Franklin	323	66.5	10.5	21.1
White	184	78.5	7.1	15.8
Black	139	50.7	15.1	28.1
Other	-	-	-	-
Grant	256	80.0	10.5	20.7
White	217	82.9	10.6	19.8
Black	37	62.2	10.8	24.3
Other	2	100.0	-	50.0
Iberia	1,265	57.5	8.5	23.4
White	722	70.1	6.5	17.7
Black	515	39.9	11.7	31.8
Other	28	57.1	3.6	14.3



Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1998				
Parish	Total Births	Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*	Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)	% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years
Iberville	509	73.2	12.6	19.6
White	215	88.2	9.3	13.0
Black	293	62.2	15.0	24.6
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
Jackson	210	58.3	12.4	17.1
White	147	68.8	10.9	16.3
Black	63	33.9	15.9	19.0
Other	-	-	-	-
Jefferson	6,469	82.2	9.1	14.3
White	4,075	88.5	6.4	10.2
Black	2,053	70.6	14.1	23.2
Other	341	77.2	11.4	9.7
Jefferson Davis	492	60.1	8.3	21.1
White	372	69.0	6.2	17.5
Black	112	30.6	15.2	33.0
Other	8	50.0	12.5	25.0
Lafayette	2,964	85.1	10.9	13.9
White	1,990	92.0	7.0	9.5
Black	917	70.2	19.6	24.1
Other	57	86.0	5.3	3.5
Lafourche	1,305	84.5	8.5	18.8
White	1,005	85.6	7.7	14.5
Black	260	79.7	12.3	34.2
Other	40	87.5	5.0	25.0
LaSalle	199	80.1	8.5	19.6
White	176	86.1	7.4	19.3
Black	23	34.8	17.4	21.7
Other	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	549	48.3	7.7	17.7
White	252	67.9	4.4	10.7
Black	287	30.6	10.5	24.4
Other	10	66.7	10.0	0.0
Livingston	1,386	84.5	7.2	15.2
White	1,280	85.7	6.2	14.0
Black	100	69.0	21.0	32.0
Other	6	100.0	-	0.0
Madison	216	59.4	8.3	28.2
White	53	77.4	3.8	17.0
Black	163	53.5	9.8	31.9
Other	-	-	-	-
Morehouse	510	49.2	11.6	27.1
White	209	62.8	8.1	21.5
Black	301	39.8	14.0	30.9
Other	-	-	-	-
Natchitoches	604	75.5	9.3	19.9
White	312	85.3	7.1	14.4
Black	288	64.9	11.5	26.0
Other	4	75.0	25.0	-



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1998</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Orleans	7,573	76.1	12.9	21.1
White	1,302	91.0	6.7	5.2
Black	6,062	72.7	14.4	25.1
Other	209	85.0	8.1	4.8
Ouachita	2,319	79.8	9.5	18.7
White	1,265	88.3	5.9	12.6
Black	1,035	68.8	13.9	26.5
Other	19	100.0	5.3	5.3
Plaquemines	366	77.9	8.7	15.8
White	244	83.8	8.2	12.7
Black	103	66.0	11.7	24.3
Other	19	68.4	-	10.5
Pointe Coupee	331	75.5	7.6	21.8
White	176	88.4	3.4	15.9
Black	155	60.8	12.3	28.4
Other	-	-	-	-
Rapides	1,928	75.5	11.1	22.6
White	1,111	84.7	7.5	15.1
Black	795	62.4	16.4	33.3
Other	22	77.3	4.5	9.1
Red River	123	71.3	8.9	20.3
White	65	90.8	7.7	18.5
Black	58	49.1	10.3	22.4
Other	-	-	-	-
Richland	368	78.8	9.8	24.7
White	186	85.8	9.7	18.8
Black	179	72.3	10.1	31.3
Other	3	32.3	-	0.0
Sabine	302	76.8	8.3	23.2
White	215	81.5	7.0	22.8
Black	72	61.1	12.5	27.8
Other	15	85.7	6.7	6.7
St. Bernard	859	88.4	7.6	13.9
White	753	90.6	6.8	12.2
Black	83	69.5	15.7	28.9
Other	23	86.4	4.3	13.0
St. Charles	713	83.6	8.4	13.9
White	487	87.1	7.2	9.0
Black	215	75.1	10.7	25.6
Other	11	100.0	18.2	0.0
St. Helena	79	88.6	7.6	16.5
White	37	89.2	-	10.8
Black	42	88.1	14.3	21.4
Other	-	-	-	-
St. James	313	68.9	13.1	19.2
White	118	78.0	10.2	5.1
Black	195	63.4	14.9	27.7
Other	-	-	-	-



Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1998				
Parish	Total Births	Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*	Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)	% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years
St. John	708	64.6	11.2	19.4
White	353	73.1	12.2	12.2
Black	349	55.8	10.3	26.9
Other	6	83.3	-	0.0
St. Landry	1,457	66.0	10.9	22.2
White	733	78.2	6.1	16.1
Black	720	53.7	15.7	206.0
Other	4	50.0	25.0	0.0
St. Martin	752	77.6	8.9	20.5
White	425	85.8	7.3	14.8
Black	317	66.4	11.0	28.7
Other	10	90.0	10.0	0.0
St. Mary	929	79.0	9.1	20.7
White	558	86.2	5.9	14.9
Black	332	68.3	15.1	30.1
Other	39	67.6	5.1	23.1
St. Tammany	2,606	85.7	7.3	11.2
White	2,201	88.4	6.4	8.4
Black	370	70.2	13.0	28.9
Other	35	82.9	5.7	5.7
Tangipahoa	1,616	90.9	10.1	21.3
White	947	93.1	6.2	14.5
Black	654	88.0	15.7	31.5
Other	15	80.0	13.3	6.7
Tensas	94	50.5	8.5	28.7
White	26	65.4	-	19.2
Black	68	44.8	11.8	32.4
Other	-	-	-	-
Terrebonne	1,693	79.8	11.0	20.7
White	1,179	81.8	9.0	18.7
Black	367	77.8	19.1	21.8
Other	147	68.8	7.5	34.0
Union	320	66.2	11.9	16.3
White	209	77.7	9.6	14.8
Black	111	43.8	16.2	18.9
Other	-	-	-	-
Vermilion	824	83.7	8.5	20.3
White	631	88.1	6.5	17.9
Black	173	69.4	15.6	31.2
Other	20	70.0	10.0	0.0
Vernon	945	77.1	7.3	14.5
White	715	78.9	6.0	13.1
Black	186	67.4	10.8	20.4
Other	44	88.6	13.6	11.4
Washington	681	76.3	12.9	22.3
White	414	85.6	7.0	17.6
Black	266	61.4	21.8	29.7
Other	1	100.0	100.0	0.0



<i>Births by Parish, Race of Mother, and Selected Characteristics Louisiana, 1998</i>				
<i>Parish</i>	<i>Total Births</i>	<i>Percent with Adequate Prenatal Care*</i>	<i>Percent Low Weight Births (<5lbs, 8oz)</i>	<i>% Births to Mothers Under Age 20 Years</i>
Webster	591	69.2	9.8	21.0
White	349	81.2	6.3	15.8
Black	241	51.3	14.9	28.6
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
W. Baton Rouge	337	82.6	7.7	15.7
White	198	89.2	4.5	13.1
Black	138	73.0	12.3	19.6
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
West Carroll	159	57.9	9.4	23.9
White	118	60.2	5.9	23.7
Black	40	50.0	20.0	25.0
Other	1	100.0	-	0.0
W. Feliciana	114	84.8	7.0	17.5
White	69	94.0	5.8	11.6
Black	45	71.1	8.9	26.7
Other	-	-	-	-
Winn	210	63.6	12.9	21.9
White	134	69.2	9.0	14.2
Black	73	53.5	17.8	35.6
Other	3	50.0	66.7	33.3

*According to modified Kessner index

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics